

17 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Fidel Castro's Speech of 17 March

1. The speech of early 17 March was basically a "pep talk" to the 300 graduates of a domestic servants' revolutionary instructors' class. Castro was apparently in good form and permitted himself in the early part of the speech a number of bantering asides which evoked the squeals and laughter that usually accompany his speeches to female audiences.

2. He began with an account of the development during the last three years of new educational opportunities for the underprivileged and specifically of night schools for domestic servants. He urged his listeners to devote greater effort and to develop greater understanding of the nature and goals of the Cuban revolution. He said they would continue their education and many of them would eventually be studying at the universities. Meanwhile, they would devote their mornings to study for becoming primary teachers, their afternoons to the study of "Marxism and political economy," and their evenings to the teaching of domestic servants in night schools.

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3. Castro then described the revolution as "a truly creative instrument...the incessant development of ideas, a constant improvement of ideas...an incessant struggle against all obstacles...all vices...all evils, against all defects, against our own defects...an incessant struggle to form a better society, a better fatherland, a more complete citizen, a better citizen."

4. Castro said, "The most difficult thing about the revolution is to understand it." He said there are still many who understand it wrongly, though their numbers are decreasing steadily. "This is our struggle--" to have more understand it better every day and fewer understand it wrongly every day. "The exchange of one society for another is most difficult; it is one of the most difficult tasks in human history."

5. The difficulties caused by the enemies of the revolution are bad, he said, but it is absurd that we should make difficulties for ourselves. We must fight against the errors which we ourselves create. As examples of what he is talking about, Castro mentioned the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, units of the nationwide informant system which report to the Department of State Security. Castro said he was recently talking to a group of girls--"humble girls, sympathizers of the revolution"--who complained that the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution "distort things, make errors, cheat... and sometimes give themselves special privileges." Castro said

that the people have a "very well developed sense of justice" and that these instances of injustice weaken the revolution. "No one has the right," he said, "to prejudice anyone else because of personal whim...or to be arbitrary with anyone else. The revolution was not brought about to cover the arbitrariness of anyone...Anyone who commits these errors is misguided...is an enemy of the revolution and will never have the support nor tolerance of any honest man in the revolution."

6. Castro urged his listeners to guard against misguided revolutionaries. "There is always the opportunist, always the loafer, there is always the man who believes himself to be a superman. He believes he is superior to the others and more revolutionary than anyone else and because of this he mistreats and subjects the others to servitude...There are many who act in such a hateful way that they make enemies for the revolution and friends for the enemies of the revolution." Castro urged all to "have a critical spirit because we are not benefited by deceiving anyone. When we make mistakes we must know that we are making mistakes, because if we try to deceive anyone the first to be deceived will be ourselves." It doesn't matter what our enemies think when we admit our mistakes; they would benefit only if we weakened ourselves by fooling ourselves.

7. Castro told the graduates that they will meet with many errors and must be prepared for this. There will come a time when there will be no more need for domestic workers. He

stresses the importance of studying to attain the goals of the revolution and concludes with the assertion that youth is in the vanguard to make the hopes of all the people come true.

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/s/

[Redacted Signature]

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
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